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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is the kind of allegation which the hon. Member is used to make. It is not a fact. As soon as the appearance of the epidemic was known, prompt measures were taken by the Public Health staff, by the Collector and by the District Board."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the Collector of Malabar has recommended to the Government to introduce filter point tube wells in the Nattika firka so as to prevent contamination of drinking-water and whether the Government have accepted that proposal? Or, what is their proposal in this matter? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said that the Collector has under consideration the question of providing protected water-supply to this area."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" We make such allegation usually because usually the Government behave in that way. In this case, it was only when the complaint was made at the highest level, that is, to the Director of Public Health, that he visited the locality and relief measures were organized. Can the Hon. Minister say that proper and, if so, what steps were taken before then? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said that prompt measures are being taken as soon as the outbreak of the epidemic is reported."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" As this kind of epidemic has become an annual feature in that area and in various other pockets in the whole of Malabar, would a special Committee be appointed to inquire into this matter so that suitable, sound and scientific measures of a lasting nature may be taken by the Government to prevent a recurrence of this kind of epidemic? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Diarrhœa and dysentery we find in many places, but the Malabar Members are more vocal and so, it is brought to the notice of the Government."

Availability of precious stones near Tirupur

* 2312 Q.—SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state— 9-20 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government have examined the precious stones seized from the Harijans of Perunthuluvu village near Tirupur about a year and a half ago;

(*b*) if so, the quality and value of stones; and

(*c*) whether the Government have conducted any survey for starting a pilot scheme to exploit the precious stones available there?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) Yes. Some stones were quarried from S. No. 194/1, natham poramboke of the village. About 1,373 lb. were seized by the village headman from the members of the Christians' Munnethra Sangam of Peranthiolavu village, Palladam, under the mistaken impression that they were valuable stones.

" (*b*) When the matter was further investigated by the Tahsildar, Tiruppur, it was found that the stones were not valuable.

" (*c*) No further survey for starting a pilot scheme to exploit the stones was conducted as the stones quarried were not valuable."

Sri S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" ஸார், அந்த பெருந்துருவு கிராமத்திலும் அதைச் சுற்றியிருக்கும் கிராமங்களிலும் சாதாரணமாக வியாபாரிகள் சென்று அங்கே இருக்கக்கூடிய பலரகக் கற்களை வாங்கி வருகிறார்கள். சர்க்கார் சொல்லக்கூடிய முறையில் அந்தக் கற்கள் மதிப்பு இல்லை என்று சொன்னால் அந்த வியாபாரிகள் ஏன் அந்தக் கற்களை இவ்வளவு வாங்கிச் செல்லுகிறார்கள் என்பதை சர்க்கார் பரிசீலனை செய்வார்களா ? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The position as it is, is that the stones are said to be not valuable. But, if the hon. Member still persists in saying that there may be valuable stones, I would request him to give me a memorandum or petition. I will look into it."

Sri S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" May I know whether the Government have been able to find out whether the stones found in those places could actually be classified as granite stones, valueless stones or some precious stones? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It was thought that they were valuable stones in the sense that to some extent they appeared like precious stones, but as a matter of fact, it was found that probably they were a sort of glittering stones."

(Questions Nos. 2313 and 2314 taken up together.)

Harijan entry into private temples

* 2313 *Q.*—Sri O. KORAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many temples in the State have been declared as public temples and how many as private temples after the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act was passed in the State; and

(*b*) whether the Government are contemplating to take any steps, and if so, what steps to get entry into private temples for worship for Harijans?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) The Government have no information.

" (*b*) The Government do not contemplate any action in the matter."